

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

| Personality traits: positive or negative?

Write P for positive or N for negative. Then choose three traits that describe your character and give examples of how you display these traits.

aggressive • bossy • brave • jealous • calm • absent-minded • adventurous • cheerful • childish • stubborn • ambitious
• boring • confident • creative • determined • easy-going • fearless • punctual • generous • moody

| Negative prefixes

Add the prefixes *dis-*, *im-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *un-* to form the opposites of the adjectives.

___ active	___ reasonable
___ decisive	___ reliable
___ dependent	___ responsible
___ flexible	___ sincere
___ honest	___ sociable
___ mature	
___ patient	
___ polite	
___ predictable	

| Complete the sentences

Choose the correct word: a, b, c, or d.

- Alan is such a ___ person. You can always depend on him.
a. lazy b. reliable c. selfish d. reserved
- He was too ___ to talk to anyone at the party, so he left early and went home.
a. creative b. shy c. caring d. flexible
- It's difficult to be ___ when you are stuck in traffic.
a. honest b. unpredictable c. patient d. stubborn
- Danny really loves making new friends. He's such a ___ child.
a. sociable b. shy c. reserved d. punctual
- Young people today must be ___ if they want to get a good job. They need to be able to adapt to new situations.
a. lazy b. flexible c. rebellious d. irresponsible
- When David turned twenty-five, he got a good job and became financially _____.
a. rebellious b. reserved c. caring d. independent
- Tony isn't particularly ___, which is his biggest flaw. He finds it really hard to get anywhere on time.
a. punctual b. easy-going c. creative d. honest
- You never know what Fiona is going to do. She is totally _____.
a. caring b. reliable c. sociable d. unpredictable
- Harry is as ___ as a mule; although he knows he's wrong, he refuses to change his mind.
a. lazy b. shy c. punctual d. stubborn

10. Debbie, like most teenagers her age, is very _____. She doesn't listen to anybody and it is very hard to make her obey rules.
a. rebellious b. patient c. caring d. punctual
11. It was very _____ of the babysitter to sit inside watching TV while the children were outside playing in the swimming pool.
a. sensitive b. irresponsible c. honest d. caring
12. Rose is very _____. She doesn't show her emotions or talk about her problems.
a. flexible b. creative c. reserved d. easy-going

Reading Comprehension Practice

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Do you enjoy comedy sketches and stand-up comedians? What is it about their humour that you like?
- Do you think that bad experiences can make for good comedy? How?

A. Read the text below.

Choose from A–H the phrase which best fits each gap 1–6. There are two choices you do not need to use.

Exam tip:

- Read the instructions and the title of the text carefully. This will help you predict the text's content.
- Read the text quickly, without paying attention to the gaps, so as to understand its meaning.
- Read the phrases A–H.
- Read the sentences in the text from which the phrases have been removed, and decide what the missing phrases could be about.
- Read the phrases A–H and decide which of them fits into each gap.
- Note that two of the phrases A–H do not fit into any gap.
- After filling all the gaps, read the full text and decide whether it makes sense. Read the phrases that you haven't used and make sure that they do not fit anywhere.

Text: Have a laugh!

It's no secret that laughing is good for us. It gives our immune system a boost, reducing stress hormones and (1) _____. It relaxes our muscles and strengthens our heart. Then, of course, laughter releases feel-good hormones that make us feel happier. Humour helps us ride the waves of life's ups and downs: it turns us into more easy-going people and breaks the ice with others.

However, (2) _____ or you just don't get other people's jokes? What if you are an intensely serious person who finds life more tragic than comic or who is more likely to be hot-tempered and moody when things go wrong than to slap your forehead and laugh? Can you learn to take life less seriously and lighten up?

According to some comedians, people can actually learn to be funny — perhaps not fall-off-your-chair funny, but at least able to admit that things are ridiculous rather than absolutely terrible. For those with a natural talent for being funny there are even stand-up comedy clinics (3) _____.

Stand-up teachers turn the art of comedy into a science and design games, such as ones in which students have to improvise, to get students to be more creative. Students are given the tools to write great jokes even when they are struggling to come up with ideas of their own.

However, if you don't have your sights set on entertaining an audience but would simply like to laugh more, there are some easy ways (4) _____. If you are feeling dull or irritated, getting together with friends to watch a comedy could be just the thing to liven you up. Additionally, make sure that if you have a tendency to see the depressing side of life, you include funny people in your circle of friends. Funny people can influence you to find humour in the simplest of

things. Welsh comedian Rhod Gilbert, for example, manages (5) _____ in a supermarket into a hilarious sketch.

Watching comedies and telling jokes is not the only way to cheer us up and make us laugh. There are countless ways to lighten up a day, like playing games with friends or doing fun activities like going swimming, playing board games or music with friends or (6) _____. For those that are serious about wanting to laugh, there are even laughing yoga classes, which are based on the idea that laughter is catching.

Options

- A. where you can learn to be a comedian
- B. playing with pets
- C. where he performed his jokes for the first time
- D. what if humour doesn't come naturally to you
- E. to turn trying to buy a single baked potato
- F. increasing disease-fighting antibodies
- G. what if you can't stop laughing when you see them
- H. to make every day more amusing